

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959



1959
BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Mayor:

COUNCILLOR F. E. Y. FLEET

Deputy Mayor:

COUNCILLOR J. EDMONDS

Public Health Committee:

(Full Council)

Chairman: Alderman A. E. Busby, J.P.

Alderman The Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Alderman P. J. Small

Alderman S. G. Williams

Coun. R. J. W. Bodenham, J.P., M.A.

Coun. C. N. Jones

„ H. E. Cornwall

„ W. Krohn

„ J. M. Cornwall

„ T. Lambourne

„ G. F. A. Downer

„ A. G. F. Marriott

„ J. Edmonds

„ R. H. Manchester

„ T. E. Holton

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District, and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

F. O'ROURKE, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Health Inspector:

R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A.

Telephone: Buckingham 2295

Secretary:

MISS A. PLUMMER.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

TOWN HALL,

BUCKINGHAM.

20th MAY, 1960.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Buckingham.

Mr. Mayor, My Lord and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The Birth Rate shows a drop from the previous year and is now 1.5 points lower than that for England and Wales.

The Death Rate shows a satisfactory drop being nearly 2 points lower than that for the rest of the country. Of the 42 deaths Heart or Allied Diseases and Cancer accounted for 25.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is very satisfactory in that there were no deaths in this group during the year.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued during the year but the response from the older age groups has not been satisfactory. The Minister has now extended the benefit of this vaccination to people up to the age of 40 and it is hoped that everybody eligible will take advantage of the protection offered. I should like to emphasise again that although the incidence of "Polio" may be greater among the younger children, when it attacks the adult in the paralytic form more severe paralysis usually occurs.

I should like to record again my thanks to your Town Clerk, Mr. Archdeacon, your Borough Surveyor and Health Inspector, Mr. Rennie Taylor, and their staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

A. Vital Statistics.

				1959	1958
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	5367	5367
Population	...	...	...	4150	4130
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	1670	1659
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£54,745	£47,290
Rate per £1	...	...	...	22/2	21/10
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£215	£200

BIRTHS:			M.	F.		
Legitimate	...	...	27	27	54	64
Illegitimate	...	...	3	2	5	5
Birth rate per 1,000 population				...	15.0	17.7
„	„	„	(Bucks)	...	17.6	17.3
„	„	„	(England & Wales)		16.5	16.4
Still Births	...	...	...	...	1	2

				M.	F.		
DEATHS	...	...	...	24	18	42	44
Death rate per 1,000 population					...	9.8	10.4
„	„	„	(Bucks)	...		9.7	9.8
„	„	„	(England & Wales)			11.6	11.7
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...		Nil	Nil
„	„	„	(Bucks)	...		0.25	Nil
„	„	„	(England & Wales)			0.38	0.43

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per					
1,000 live births	...	...		Nil	14.5
„	(Bucks)	...	...	18.4	16.4
„	(England & Wales)			22.0	22.5

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:					1959			1958		
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	...	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	...	4	4	8	2	2	4
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...			3	2	5	1	5	6
Heart Disease	...	...	...		4	7	11	6	9	15
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	2	2	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	1	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	0	4	0	3	3
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...		0	1	1	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...	...	...		0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	1	1
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	5	1	6	3	4	7
					—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...			24	18	42	17	27	44
					—	—	—	—	—	—

B. General Provision of Health Services.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Samples for chemical analysis have to be sent to Haywards Heath.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One "Utilicon" car was stationed in Buckingham, and supplemented when necessary with ambulances from Bletchley. All vehicles are radio controlled.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

4. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities

of the Centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance of children throughout the year was 739. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria immunisations were also carried out in this Clinic.

(b) Orthopaedic Clinic.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield Morris Hospital.

(c) Chest Clinic.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at Buckingham Hospital, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area:

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.
6. Creton Sanatorium.
7. Royal Bucks.
8. Tindal Hospital.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered by the County Council. During the year 60 cases were assisted.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

The public water supply was maintained throughout the year adequately. The quality was at all times satisfactory.

Average daily consumption was 38.81 gallons per head of the population.

Metered premises used 10,245,466 gallons.

The total amount of water consumed during the year in Buckingham and Gawcott was 58,574,000 gallons.

Abstraction from the Maids Moreton well was 57,479,220 gallons during the year. No serious breakdown of plant or machinery occurred.

Peak consumption was 210,700 gallons per day on the 23rd June.

Twenty-one bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, all were satisfactory.

The considerable increase in consumption over last year's figures was undoubtedly due mainly to the driest summer experienced for many years. Mention should also be made that night pressures were increased throughout the year when the low level reservoir at Maids Moreton was taken out of service. This also had the effect of nearly balancing the figures for water pumped and water consumed which in previous years showed a greater discrepancy.

The low level reservoir will be back in service when arrangements are completed to increase its pressure to that of Akeley reservoir.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER.

			Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
Total solids (dried at 180° C.)	...	...	48.0	33.6
Combined chlorine (Cl)	...	...	2.2	1.5
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl)	...	...	3.6	2.5
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	0.04	0.03
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	0.0010	0.0007
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	...	...	0.003	0.002
Lead or Copper	...	...	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca Co3)			26.5	18.6
Permanent hardness (" " ")			8.0	5.6
Total hardness (" " ")			34.5	24.2

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new sewage disposal works at Bourton has been in operation over a year and is producing a satisfactory effluent before discharge into the river.

Considerable difficulty is found in disposing of the sludge residue from the works and some nuisance is caused in hot weather from the drying beds.

3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected once a fortnight in the Rural part of the area, and weekly in the built-up area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

Refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method. One tip is used at Gawcott and the new tip at Stratford Road, Buckingham, is in operation. The latter site should provide tipping space for the town for a considerable number of years.

4. SWIMMING POOL.

The record fine weather during the summer months was reflected in pool attendances and receipts.

Season ticket sales produced £164 7 6.

Gate receipts produced £629 5 11.

Refreshments sold amounted to £390 5 11.

The Education Dept. contributed £147 11 8 for the use of the pool by local schools for swimming instruction.

A swimming gala was held on the 20th June and produced an income of £31 10 8.

The pool water was at all times satisfactory but the need is obvious for improved changing accommodation.

5. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.

The Wipac Factory is providing increasing employment in the town.

Factory extensions are in hand or proposed at Messrs. E. & F. Richardson's and also Messrs. Leslie Hartridge, Ltd.

Nine outworkers were notified to the Council during the year.

PART 1 OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	2	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	32	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	28	41	—	—

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

D. Housing.

During the year 30 families were housed by the Council. No new local authority houses were built. Proposals to extend the roadways on the Pightle Overn Hill Estate to accommodate 16 Old People's Bungalows and 50 houses have been approved and part of this programme should be completed in 1960.

E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1959.

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYE-LAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	889
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	...	...	...	7
Nuisances, etc., abated	...	...	...	875
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts				2
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts				71
Prosecutions	...	...	...	—

HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	8
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	14
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	131
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	40
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	...	...	...	...	—
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases)	...	...	...	...	—
Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	470

HOUSING ACTS.

9 houses have been demolished during the year, six unfit houses by the County Council as part of a road widening scheme and 3 unfit houses after formal action by this Council.

A number of houses still remain occupied and fall short of standard requirements, some of these are occupied by families not prepared to pay the higher rents charged for council housing accommodation.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	161	...	1	841	270	...
Number inspected	161	...	1	841	270	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole Carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	...	...	13	7	...
% of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci	6.83	...	...	1.54	2.59	...
Tuberculosis only. Whole Carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...
% of inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cysticercosis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	...	...	...	...	...
Generalised and totally con- demned	...	...	...	...	...	...

Close attention has been paid to food premises, having regard to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

The number of premises affected by the regulations being 84 and falling into the following categories:—

Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	8
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	17
Stalls	...	...	...	...	7
Canteens	...	...	...	...	15
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	34
Dairies	...	...	...	...	3

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is 22, and all such premises are regularly inspected.

No clean food campaigns have been sponsored during the period.

All food premises have been supplied with extracts from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	28
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	25

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDER, 1919.

RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:—

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	27
Number of premises treated for rats	...	...	...	42
Number of premises treated for mice	...	...	...	3
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	...	70
Actual rats' bodies found	...	...	...	41
Visits for Inspection and Survey	...	...	...	59
Visits for Baiting and Extermination	...	...	...	97

RENNIE TAYLOR,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

1. GENERAL.

The year was free from any epidemics of notifiable Infectious Diseases.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

						1958	1959
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	67	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	—	2

3. CANCER.

There were 8 deaths from this disease during the year.

4. TUBERCULOSIS.

Two new cases were notified but it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths.

D. H. WALDRON,
Medical Officer of Health.

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